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Applicant : Klaus-Jürgen Winter and Karl Zacharias
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REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed March 4, 2005. The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the recent Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested.

Disposition of the Claims.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application and all are at issue.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the term “slot-like” was deemed to be unclear. The term “slot-like” has been replaced with “elongated openings.” This term is believed to be definite. Also, the term “said openings” is deemed to be indefinite. The term “said openings” has been replaced with “said cover openings.” Accordingly, it is believed that all of the issues have been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1-3, 10-15 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 1,671,435 to McKissick (“McKissick”). The rejection is traversed.

McKissick discloses a safety sheave block having two cable rollers 17 (see Fig. 2) enclosed by two shrouding covers 16, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26. Each shrouding cover consists of two circular plates 16 being centrally connected via a bolt 15 for the cable rollers 17 to the center of a vertical side bar 12. Moreover, each plate 16 has two inwardly directed guard flanges 22, 23 partly covering the cable roller 17. Additionally, at the top of each plate 16 and fastened to the inner side of the plate 16 is an arched guard 26 for the cable (see description 2, lines 3-8). The guard 26 has a cable notch 27 at its end for guiding the cable.

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However, the two shrouding covers 16 with their guard flanges 22, 23 and their arched guards 26 establish only a part of the shrouding cover for the cable rollers 17. As it can be seen from Fig. 1, the remaining gap between the guard flanges 22 and 23 of the plate 16 is filled by closure wings 24 and 25. In Fig. 1, the safety sheave block is shown in its normal and working position, respectively, wherein the closure wings 24 and 25 are located between the guard flanges 22 and 23.

As seen in Fig. 3, the closure wings 24 and 25 are connected to a plate 18 having a central aperture 19, whereby it is journaled on the bolt 15. Moreover, the plate 18 has a finger 20 extending from the edge of the plate 18. The finger 20 shows an eye 21 for receiving a bottom becket bolt 14 connecting the plate 18 with the lower ends of the vertical side bars 12 and holding the plate 18 against rotation.

The plate 18 with its closure wings 24 and 25 constitutes a closure member (see page 1, lines 84-86) being shiftable from the normal position – closing the gap between the guard flanges 22 and 23 – into a cable changing position wherein the gaps between the guard flanges 22 and 23 are opened and the cable entrance and exit openings (no reference number) adjacent to the arched guards 26 are still open. During the operation, the shiftable closure member is in its normal position. The shifting of the closure member is provided in order to ease inserting and removing of the cable lines (see page 1, lines 95-98).

In order to shift the closure member, the bottom becket bolt 14 has to be removed from the eye 21 of the plate 18 and the plate 18 with the closure wings 24 and 25 can be rotated around the bolt 15 and relative to the stationary guard flanges 22 and 23 and the arched guards 26.

From the above description, it is clear that in the normal position the gap between the guard flanges 22 and 23 is closed by the closure wings 24 and 25. Moreover, the arched guards 26, the plates 16, the guard flanges 22 and 23 and the closure wings 24 and 25 surround the entrance and exit openings for the cables during the operation of the safety sheave block.

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Present claim 1 specifies cover elements in said entry and exit openings. McKissick discloses only closure wings 24 and 25 forming a part of the shrouding covers in the normal position of the closure wings 24 and 25. In the cable-changing position, only the second closure wing 25 partially covers one of the entry and exit openings for the cable. The closure wing 25 is located *over* the arched guard 26 and the adjacent entry and exit openings. Accordingly, the requirement that the cover elements be in the entry and exit openings is not met. Furthermore, claim 1 specifies that the cover elements have cover openings for the carrying cables. The closure wings 24 and 25 of McKissick include no such openings. Nor does McKissick disclose cover openings that are smaller than the entry and exit openings in the shrouding cover. Claim 1 further specifies that the cover elements can be shifted with respect to the entry and exit openings by the carrying cable during operation of the lower cable block. In McKissick, the closure wings 24 and 25 are stationary during operation of the safety sheave block. Accordingly, it is submitted that McKissick does not anticipate the claims in the present application.

Moreover, the present invention is directed to improving protection of the workmen and to prevent fingers from being caught between a cable and cable roller. In contrast, McKissick is for the purpose of simplifying insertion and removing of cables with respect to the safety sheave block. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention as defined in claim 1 is not taught or suggested by McKissick. Accordingly, the rejection has been overcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter.

Claims 4-9 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4-9 are dependent upon claim 1 as a base claim and are submitted to be patentable for reasons previously set forth. Claim 16 is rewritten in independent form in the manner set forth in the Office Action.

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It is believed that the present application is in a condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If Examiner Marcelo has any questions or reservations, it is requested that Examiner Marcelo call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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